

II. Listing of Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 11, 16, and 17 have been allowed.

Claims 11, 16, and 17 are pending herein.

Claims 7 and 18-50 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, with 1-6, 8-10, and 12-15 having been previously canceled.

Claims 11, 16, and 17 have been previously presented.

1-6 (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8-10 (canceled)

11. (previously presented) A method for recycling a rail, comprising:
- providing a rail;
 - heating the rail;
 - slitting the rail to separate the rail into a first piece and a second piece wherein the first piece is a flange and the second piece is a head; and
 - deforming the flange and the head;
- wherein slitting the rail and deforming the flange and the head, comprises:
- passing the rail through a first reduction pass;
 - passing the rail from the first reduction pass to a first delivery guiding system;
 - separating the rail into the flange and the head in the first delivery guiding system;
 - passing the flange and the head from the first delivery guiding system to a first entry guiding system;
 - passing the flange and the head from the first entry guiding system to a pair of pinch rolls;

passing the flange and the head from the pinch rolls to a second delivery guiding system;

passing the flange and the head from the second delivery guiding system to a conveyor line;

passing the flange into a first flange entry guiding system and passing the head into a first head entry guiding system;

passing the flange from the first flange entry guiding system into a second reduction pass;

passing the flange from the second reduction pass to a first flange delivery guiding system;

passing the head from the first head entry guiding system to the second reduction pass;

passing the head from the second reduction pass to a first head delivery guiding system;

passing the head from the first head delivery guiding system to a second head entry guiding system;

passing the head from the second head entry guiding system to a third reduction pass;

passing the flange from the first flange delivery guiding system to a second flange entry guiding system;

passing the head from the third reduction pass to a second head delivery guiding system;

passing the flange from the second flange entry guiding system to the third reduction pass;

passing the flange from the third reduction pass to a second flange delivery guiding system;

passing the head from the second head delivery guiding system to a third head entry guiding system;

passing the head from the third head entry guiding system to a fourth reduction pass;

passing the flange from the second flange delivery guiding system to a third flange entry guiding system;

passing the head from the fourth reduction pass to a third head delivery guiding system;

passing the flange from the third flange entry guiding system to the fourth reduction pass; and

passing the flange from the fourth reduction pass to a third flange delivery guiding system.

12-15 (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A method for reducing structural defects in a recycled rail, comprising:

providing a rail having a hole formed therein;

slitting the rail across the hole to separate the rail into a first piece and a second piece, whereby slitting the rail across the hole defines a partial hole in each of the first and second pieces; and

deforming the first and second pieces of the rail in at least one reduction pass, whereby deformation of the first and second pieces elongates the partial holes of the first and second pieces.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein slitting the rail across the hole reduces scrap associated with deforming the first and second pieces of the rail.

18-50 (canceled)